

## THE CITY OF TROSSINGEN GERMANY

The City of Trossingen is located about 100 km. southwest of Stuttgart just off of the Autobahn in Germany. It lies between the Black Forest and Swabian Alps mountain ranges and is situated on a plateau named The Baar<sup>20</sup>.

Trossingen's population is approximately 16,000. Trossingen has existed as a city for 1200 years. Settlements have existed in the Trossingen area since 10,000 B.C.

It is the home of the Hohner Music Company, which is the manufacturer of the famous Hohner mouth organs. It is a self proclaimed "Musikstadt" or City of Music. Trossingen also hosts numerous music festivals throughout the year such as the Trossingen Blues Factory and the World Harmonica Festival.

Trossingen became the sister city of Beaverton in 1993. The landscape, rolling hills and vegetation are similar to Beaverton's, although the climate is drier and colder, with more snow.



City Hall in Trossingen, Germany

## TROSSINGEN AND SUSTAINABILITY

**How has your city officially defined "sustainability" or created a resolution to protect the environment, economy and society?**

The city of Trossingen is concerned about sustainability and a Local Agenda 21 (based on Agenda 21 which was adopted by 170 nations at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992). In order to initiate this Local Agenda, a conference to address the future was held in 2001. 64 citizens of Trossingen representing various sectors such as economic, educational, environmental, cultural/tourist, associations/leisure/volunteer, social organizations, churches, and administration discussed the city's future and established goals.

**How does your city take care of recycling, garbage collection, water provision or parks?**

The parks located in Trossingen are cleaned and maintained by city volunteers (citizens of Trossingen working on a voluntary basis) and the municipal maintenance authority. The city actively participates in waste separation and recycling. The recycling is then sorted according

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<sup>20</sup> From the Beaverton Sister Cities' Website: <http://www.beavertonoregon.gov/departments/sistercities/cities/Trossingen.aspx>

to reusable plastics, paper, organic waste, and non-recyclable waste. Garbage collection is coordinated by the Landratsamt [county district office], the next higher authority; the city is not responsible for this. Stadtwerke [public services], a division of the Stadtverwaltung [municipality], is responsible for water provision and is also responsible for sewage and the wastewater treatment plant. The biogases from the wastewater treatment plant are used by an environmentally-friendly combined heat and power plant.

### **What are your city's goals supporting the notion of sustainability?**

The following goals were established:

- Holistic training
- Traffic concept (traffic-reducing and pedestrian-friendly measures)
- City center concept
- Integration of all Trossingen citizens
- Involvement of all citizens in Local Agenda 21
- Commitment of all citizens to benefit the local community
- Use of alternative energies
- Green concept
- Completion of the cultural and leisure facilities
- Participation in the shaping of regional planning
- Expansion of the center of commerce and industry
  - o Establishment of new businesses
  - o Support of local businesses
  - o Creation of new jobs
- Nature-oriented agriculture and forestry
- Open approach towards new technology and responsible use thereof



Downtown Trossingen

In an effort to pursue each of the goals, a group of individuals has been assembled and is responsible for achieving the goals.

### **What activities are in place?**

- The traffic concept is in place; this concept has led to the redevelopment of the main street which has created more parking spaces as well as a more attractive cityscape.
- The goal to expand the center of commerce and industry is still being pursued. In order to better assess the local business situation, a census of business establishments was conducted and has been concluded.
- Furthermore, an inter-municipal commercial zone was formed in collaboration with the neighboring community of Durchhausen in order to create adequate space for new businesses.
- There are two groups (Innenstadtkonzept [city center concept], Kinder- und Jugendfreundliches Trossingen [child and youth-friendly Trossingen]) that remain active and

consistently implement measures or launch new projects; for example, the project “Sicherer Schulweg” [“safer way to school”], or the redevelopment of the city center (previously an industrial wasteland).

- Additionally, the city has switched to hydroelectric power and implemented various energy-related improvements and a local recreation area was also developed.

Organizations and businesses are helping to promote sustainability in Trossingen as well as the city itself. <sup>21</sup>

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<sup>21</sup> For a list of businesses promoting sustainability in Trossingen please see Appendix 1.6